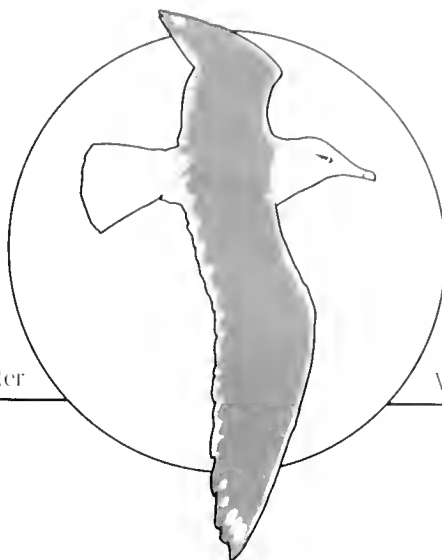


The Gull

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 4 April 1997



All Is Fair In Love And War

by John Gibbons

Long thin legs, fluid curving neck, statuesque profile, and wearing all white; the Snowy Egret is a picture of grace and beauty. But of course that image is completely blown when they choose to act like squabbling chickens in a farm yard! It's not entirely their fault, however, the main problem is hormonal. You see, spring is in the air and mating is on the mind - the perfect recipe for flying egos and short tempers.

Dressed to the nines in their breeding attire with fine long plumes down their chest and back, the Snowy Egrets are beginning to realize what a small place Bolinas Bay can be, especially since thirty or so of them have each decided that they alone should stand on the same square foot of shore! At this time of year it is essential, however, that you are where every one else is. After all, what good is fine plumage if you can't show it off, and what good is sexual tension if can't exert it?

Although a bit crowded, the Snowies go about their wading and fishing with little concern for much else. Their graceful white forms strolling among the reeds and grass. But then there is a squawk, a splash, and the chase is on. With feathers ruffled and crest raised, the assailant spreads his 25-inch wingspan and rids himself of the neighboring nuisance. Unfortunately, no one seems very impressed, and so it's back to fishing. Over and over the scene replays itself, seemingly out of protocol more than necessity, and the audience of Pintails and Widgeons has begun to fall asleep (they've seen this show before.) But although its a repeat performance, it must be done.

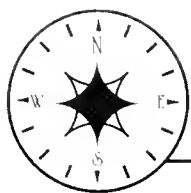
The egrets have kept their appointment with Mother Nature by collecting here to sort out their differences and remind each other of the rules of the game: 1) I belong in this exact spot, you don't. 2) You're intentionally trying to look better

Continued on page 11

Please
note:
Monthly
meetings
are now on
the third
Thursday of
the month.
See back



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GIBBONS



Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

SATURDAY APRIL 5 SUNOL REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 8:30 a.m. inside the park entrance at the parking lot on the left. See March Gull for other details. Leaders: Ron Lindeman (510) 521-2324 and Leora Feeney \$(*)

SUNDAY APRIL 6 BREEDING BIRDS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Meet at 8:30 a.m. (Remember: this is the first day of Daylight Savings Time) in the Land's End parking lot on Merrie Way just east of the Cliff House. See March Gull for other details. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229 (*)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 MINI-TRIP TO SUNOL REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot inside the park. See March Gull for other details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman \$(*)

SATURDAY APRIL 12 RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

(Note: Improved Directions) Meet

at 10 a.m. at Audubon Center in the Wildlife Sanctuary, 376 Greenwood Rd. in Tiburon. Take Hwy 101 to the Tiburon exit (Rt. 131). Turn toward Tiburon on Tiburon Boulevard and go about 1 mile to Greenwood Cove Rd. Turn right and follow the road about 1/2 mile. You will see a sign on the right that says "Richardson Bay Audubon Center Sanctuary." Please park on the street. See March Gull for other details. Leader: Ranger Bill Bixby (415) 388-2524, Wed-Sun., daytime.

SATURDAY APRIL 19 BOTHE-NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK

(Note: Changes from March Gull.) Meet at 9 a.m. in the small parking lot about 1/4 mile from the entrance. We will walk three to four miles, birding mostly by ear. From the East Bay: drive north on I-80 beyond Vallejo and take the Napa exit. Follow Hwy. 29 to St. Helena. The entrance to the park is on the left just past the old Bale Mill north of St. Helena. From the West Bay: take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 37 near Novato; go east to the junction with Hwy. 121; turn left and continue on 121 until it joins Hwy. 29 near Napa; continue north on 29 to the park. See March Gull for other details. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. \$(*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 MINES ROAD, LIVERMORE

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center. See March Gull for other details. Leader: George Bing (510) 443-5868.

SATURDAY APRIL 19 POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASORE NINTH ANNUAL ALL-DAY BIRDING BLITZ

(Joint activity: GGAS and National Park Service) Meet at 8 a.m. at the Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot, approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on the west side of Hwy. 1. We will bird the Five-Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multihabitat trip. Bring water, food, and wear layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home) and Cathy Purchis (510) 865-9482. (*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 TILDEN REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center parking lot. Enter the park from either the Spruce Gate or the Shasta Gate off Grizzly Peak Blvd. in Berkeley and follow the signs to the Nature Center at the north end of the park. We will explore Jewel Lake and other areas. Orange-crowned Warblers and House Wrens should be vocal, Black-headed Grosbeaks should be present, and we hope to see migrating hummingbirds. Trip will end at about 1 p.m. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lewis Cooper (510) 526-1773.

SUNDAY APRIL 27 BRIONES REGIONAL PARK

For this half-day trip meet at 9 a.m. at the west entrance off Bear Creek Road, at the parking area on the left, just beyond the fee booth. From Oakland take Hwy. 24 and

exit at the Orinda turnoff. Turn left and go under the freeway on Camino Pablo. Continue north-west about two miles to Bear Creek Road. Turn right and go about 4.5 miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right (just beyond Happy Valley Road). From the Richmond area, take San Pablo Dam Road to Bear Creek Rd.; turn right onto Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley, cross through Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Road, continuing beyond Inspiration Point. Cross San Pablo Dam Road onto Bear Creek Road. We will be looking for resident birds and migrants, including Lazuli Bunting. Leader: David George (510) 339-6848. (\$)

SATURDAY MAY 3 SUNOL REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 8:30 a.m. inside the park entrance at the parking lot on the left. Take I-680 south, turn off at Calaveras Road. (The freeway sign is marked Calaveras Rd., Dumbarton Bridge, Calif. 84.) Go south (left) and follow the signs to Sunol Regional Park, about 5 miles. Bring lunch and liquids in preparation for a 4-5 mile walk. We expect to see a variety of the common breeding birds, including flycatchers, swallows, vireos, and warblers. This trip is also good for wildflowers. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Gloria Markowitz and Ken Ackerman (415)892-2910 \$(*)

SUNDAY, MAY 4 WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 8 a.m. by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd. (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr. and Thors Bay Rd.) in El Cerrito. From there we will

drive a short distance to the trail-head on Rifle Range Rd. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird the brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides, and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants and a good representation of nesting birds including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Bring lunch and liquids for a six-mile hike. The trip will end at 2 p.m. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (510) 376-8945. (*)

SUNDAY MAY 11 MT. DIABLO STATE PARK

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking lot, one mile after passing through the South Gate entrance. Take Hwy. 24 to Walnut Creek, then go south on I-680 to Danville. Take the Mt. Diablo Rd. exit, go left under the freeway and follow the signs to Mt. Diablo State Park. We will look for Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, swifts, swallows, woodpeckers, and warblers. This riparian habitat should be productive. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends about 1 p.m. Leader: David George (510) 339-6848. \$(*)

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 MINI-TRIP TO BRIONES REGIONAL PARK

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park, off Bear Creek Road. Meet at the parking area on the left, just beyond the fee booth. Directions: see April 27 Briones trip. We should see Northern Orioles, Lark

Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Lazuli Buntings. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510)351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

SATURDAY MAY 17 BOUVERIE PRESERVE

(Near Glen Ellen) This 500-acre preserve is known for its flowering plants (over 350 species) as well as 100 bird species. The trip will be from 9:30 to 1:30. Bring lunch and wear hiking shoes for a 2 to 5 miles, mildly to moderately strenuous hike. The group will be divided into small groups and paired with a Bouverie docent. This trip is by reservation only. To reserve a space, call Nancy at (707) 938-4554. Directions and information about the meeting time and place will be mailed to participants.

PROBABLE DATE FOR YUBA PASS TRIP:

June 14-15. Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8065.

Plan Ahead!.....May 31 & June 1: Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite

Reservations required at Hodgdon Meadow Campgrounds. Details in May Gull. Leaders: Dave Quady (510) 704-9555 & Bob Lewis (510) 845-5001

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (*). See below. Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING A TRIP, call Lillian Fujii (510) 256-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.

Conservation News and Thoughts

by Arthur Feinstein and Carolyn Kolka

Not wasting any time in the new Congressional Session, Congressman Don Young, chair of the House

Resources Committee, has presented us with a new attack on our national wildlife refuges. (Don Young won't let us forget that he is the guy who removed the word "natural" from this committee, previously called the Natural Resources Committee.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently operates our national wildlife refuges with a clear mandate that the preservation of wildlife takes priority over all other management issues. Young's new bill, HR 511 (HR stands for House of Representatives), would alter that standard and would instead put recreational uses on an even basis

with wildlife conservation. Thus, if jet skiers wanted to ride through sensitive waterfowl nesting habitat, the service may not be able to deny them that pleasure. The same would apply to the placement of trails through sensitive habitat, hunting and fishing where inappropriate, etc. With the mandate for wildlife removed, our refuges become playgrounds for humans rather than sanctuaries for our beleaguered wildlife.

Please write to your Congressperson and ask him or her to oppose HR 511. The address is:
Representative _____
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Thanks!



Migrating South

We as a chapter have been fortunate enough to have such great fieldtrip leaders as Dave Cornman, long-time "Birding by Ear" GGAS trip leader.

Unfortunately opportunity knocks and he is off to Orange County to take a new job.

To all the birders who attended my trips and share my love for birds and their wonderful songs, I will miss you and our great birding times together. Practice your Pygy Owl hoots and work to protect birds and their habitats whenever you can. Feel free to contact me (cornman@sfpp.com) if you want to do some birding together.

Sincerely,

Dave Cornman

Gifts and Bequests

Ralph & Susan Alcorn, John & Ruth Anderson, Katherine & Jeffery Bairey, Fred & Anne Barnes, Isobels Bartels, Bob Battigan, Barbara & James Beatty, Scott Benson, Mary Betlach, Everett & Grace Bliss, George & Kay Bloom, Lucile Bogue, Judith Breen, Marcia Brockbank, Eugenia & Peter Caldwell, Willia Cambell, Bruce & Myra Cobbledick, Steven Cochran & Lisa Frost, Terry & Zeo Coddington, Clark & Ethel Cooper, Eugene Corr, Hugh Cotter, Afton Crooks, Judith Cunningham, John & Janette Dang, Edwin & Ira Dankworth, Martha Davis, Anita Dean, Edward Ddenebeim, Franklin & Lola Dill, R.C. & Jenny Downing, John & Lisa Doyen, J.H. Duvall, Caroline Erickson, L.H. Fitzgerald, Monica Fletcher & Stephen Evans, Mary Foley, Cornelia Foster, Richard Gale, Michael & Irene Garbov, Ann Witter Gillette, Rima Goldman & Katherine Heilig, David Haase, Arthur & Kristi Haigh, David Hamilton & Nancy Huneke, Alan Harper & Carol Baird, Joan Hay, Edgar Heithaus & Phyllis Wilson, Marcelle Hill, Jack & Mae Hoag, Robert Hodas, Bruce & Jeanette Howard, Blair & Katherine Jarrett, Joan Keller, Constance Kobayashi, Jack & Florence Kositsky, Betty Kryger, Johan Langewis G.M. Larsen, Robert & Caroline Lichtenstein, James & Eileen Ludwig, D.B. Luten, Barbara McCloskey & Susan Baker, Sylvia McLaughlin, Alan & Rosalind Meisel, Susan Merrill, Jean Mooney, Janet Morgan, Phoebe Nichols, Robert & Dorothy O'Brien, Robert & Esther Oswalt, Mortan Paley, Susan Peters, George Peyton, Jr., Mauricia Price, John & Dymphna Pruyn, H.T. & Marguerite Richter, R.J. & Kathryne Riddell, Karen Rosenbaum, Miriam Rothschild, Helen Sam & Harrietta Mahle, Carolyn Sanders, Mary Schaefer, Sandra Schnabel, John Schuermann, Gretchen Snyder, Kieth & Meredith Standiford, Stephen Steinke, Russell & Sally Symon, Stephen & Dolores Taller, Don Tanedo, Alyce Tarcher, David Teegarden, Glen Tepke, Megan Thomas, Mary Ann Thompson, Daisy Uyeda, Dorothy van Tets, M. Lucile Way, Ralph & Rose Weilerstein, Margaret & Maurice Zeff.

For the Bird Box:

Mark Evans, George Peyton

In the memory of:

Clark Gleason

Birdathon

Have you heard comments like "It's good to create rangeland in the tropical forest – the people need the money." or "The plovers enjoy the interaction with dogs – keep them off leash!?" Many people have no inkling of the interconnectedness of life or the importance of rainforests to global health, let alone the habitat needs of migratory birds or why Snowy Plovers need protection from dogs. Opening doors to the wonders of nature and teaching the importance of biodiversity and habitat protection through natural history and ecology education can be a first step to helping folks develop a heart so that it is not blind. This year the proceeds of the Birdathon are slated to help support two programs involving education – "The Panama Committee" and "Audubon Adventures."

The Panama Committee of GGAS was organized two years ago in response to National Audubon's "Birds in the Balance" program. A working relationship between GGAS and the Panama Audubon Society (PAS) has been built through this committee. PAS wants everyone in their country to know about and appreciate the wonderful diversity of bird life around them and to understand the importance of habitat protection. GGAS is helping PAS to achieve its goal by supplying donated binoculars, scopes, and field guides and has plans to provide educational materials. Supporting PAS helps

us, too! Neotropical migrants breed in the north but spend most of their year in places like Panama. If birds lose their habitat in the tropics, their survival there (and here) is in serious doubt. But the Panama Committee needs money – hence, the Birdathon.

"Great! Useful! Effective!" "The kids and I love it and learn from each issue!" "A great adjunct to my science program." This is how teachers describe the "Audubon Adventures" program. The program, created by National Audubon Society, brings the wonders of nature to children in grades 3 through 6. Every year, each child in the class receives six

"Of what
avail is
an open eye
if the heart
is blind."

– Solomon Ibn-Gabriel

issues of Audubon Adventures, a thought-provoking and entertaining nature/environmental newsletter. These issues contain articles, games, illustrations, and suggested projects. Teachers receive a companion "Leader's

Guide" for each issue that helps them utilize the newsletter. Certainly a worthy cause for Birdathon proceeds.

We hope that all GGAS members and friends participate in some way in Birdathon 1997 to help support these two great programs.

Need more incentive? **There are PRIZES!!**

BIRDATHON T-shirts: to everyone contributing or gathering pledges of \$100 or more.

Lapel Pins! Patches! Awards! and other surprises!!

Still haven't decided to participate?...one more nudge – IT'S EASY!!!

JUST: Find the pledge form in this issue of the GULL, choose a means of participation, fill out the form on the reverse page, and send it to the GGAS office by April 12, please.

We will send you all the information you need to gather pledges, remit contributions, or whatever is appropriate to the means of participation you choose.

Remember, the official Birdathon Day is April 26, 1997; however, if you want to bird, you can do it any day between April 15 and May 3. If you have any questions, please call Anna Marie Bratton at (415) 452-1809.



Golden Gate Audubon Society

YES! I want to help the birds! Here's how:

☐ I pledge to support one (or more!) of the following Birdathon Teams at the rate of

\$_____ per species – up to \$_____ total.

☐ LOONATICKS: Alan Hopkins and friends.

☐ OLD COOTS: David Rice, Paul and Helen Green.

☐ UNCOMMON BIOLOGISTS: Anna-Marie Bratton, Mike Guthrie, Calvin Hom, Paul Young, and others from the Biology Dept. from City College of San Francisco.

☐ FRIENDS OF LAKE MERCED: Dan Murphy and other F.O.L.M.

☐ MURPHY's M.OB.: Dan Murphy and anyone who will gather pledges and join this San Francisco field trip. Call Dan at (415) 564-0074.

☐ EAST BAY TRIPPERS: Lillian Fujii, Arthur Feinstein, and anyone who will gather pledges and join this field trip in the East Bay. Call (510) 236-4167.

☐ I would like to join Murphy's M.Ob. or East Bay Trippers. Please send me Sponsor Forms.

☐ I will lead my own team and gather pledges of at least \$1.00 per species. Please send me Sponsor Forms.

☐ I will form a team at work that my company will be sponsoring. Please send me a Corporate Pledge Form.

☐ I will bird on my own and pledge \$_____ per species I count or I will gather pledges. Please send me Sponsor Forms.

☐ I enclose a contribution of \$_____. (Please enclose check made payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society.)

All contributions are tax deductible!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ Be sure to send me Sponsor Forms.

Clip and mail to: Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

Or fax to the GGAS office: (510) 843-5351.



For Sale

The Golden Gate Audubon Society has a great offer for some one out there. Part of the bookshelves in the office are occupied by the complete series of "Life Histories of North American Birds" by Arthur Cleveland Bent, and are being offered for sale. In very good condition, the series is valued at \$275, but GGAS is selling it for \$200! This is also an incredibly good gift idea for the birder who has everything (except this series of course!)

For more information, call the GGAS office at (510) 843-2222.





Since my husband is recovering from a hip replacement and I'm biting the bullet with sciatic nerve pain, we're going to take an armchair adventure this month. I've always wanted to know about penguins, and this would be the perfect time to read up.

It would be hard to pick a favorite from among the 18 species of birds, found only in the Southern Hemisphere. The largest, the Emperor, stands 3 ft tall and weighs around 65 lb. The smallest, the Little Blue, stands 1 ft and weighs 2 lbs or so. Their wings are flightless and are used as oars as they swim. They have sturdy bodies with a large strongly keeled breastbone and massive pectoral muscles. Their legs are set well back on the body, giving an upright stance and their characteristic rolling gait. Strong feet with fleshy webs and strong nails enable a penguin to scramble among rocks and up ice banks as well as aiding in steering and braking in the water. And they love to leap from the water like porpoises, which allows them to maintain speeds of 5 to 10 mph without stopping to breathe.

Despite ugly weather conditions, high winds, and blowing snow, penguins stay toasty underneath. Their short, curved feathers cover the body, each with an aftershaft of dense down. The tips of the feathers overlap like tiles on a roof, forming an oily and watertight outer garment. The down forms a warm shirt beneath, keeping the skin

dry. This plus blubber keeps them from losing heat on land or in water. Resting or swimming, they lie low in the water like grebes and cormorants. The Emperor has gone as deep as 880 ft and stayed under for up to 20 minutes, while smaller penguins usually dive for only 2 minutes or so while feeding.

Most penguins breed once a year, timing the emergence of the chicks with optimum weather and food conditions. Adelie Penguins cross the sea ice to their traditional breeding grounds in mid-October. After 2 to 3 weeks of boundary disputes, courtship and mating can take place. The male must incubate for 2 weeks while his wife feeds at sea. Then they alternate at 4 to 7-day intervals until the chick hatches. The chicks, covered in heavy down, are fed by both parents before molting and going to sea. The parents rest and also molt before winter, which they spend on offshore icepacks. What a life!

Emperor fathers are the most devoted as they incubate the egg for 2 months, holding it on top of their feet, under the down of their belly. The dads huddle together for warmth. Finally the female returns to help feed the chick who quickly plumps up to nearly adult size. Other penguins in more temperate

climates nest in caves or burrows among grassy tussocks or in forests close to water where they are safe from any airborne predators. Danger can await in the water as well, however; penguins are a delicacy for sea lions and killer Whales.

Penguins are intensely social, as proven by colonies in the Antarctic of several million pairs! They resemble rock concert devotees, all crowded together, vocalizing. Some have punk hairdos (some species sport brightly colored crests used in courtship). Whether waddling on two feet or taking the easy route by sliding on their bellies, they could amuse you for hours. }



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

October 25, 1996

Board of Directors

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G

Berkeley CA 94702

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of assets, liabilities and fund balances of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., as of May 31, 1996, and the related statements of support, revenues and expenses, cash flows, changes in fund balances and functional expenses for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All of the information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. A review consists principally of inquiries of organization personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

DAMASCO & ASSOCIATES

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1996

ASSETS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Properties	Total
Current Assets:				
Cash	\$11,326	\$-	\$-	\$11,326
Cash equivalents (Note 4)	34,218	13,729	-	47,947
Interest receivable	3,797	-	-	3,797
Marketable securities (Note 5)	321,403	127,814	-	449,217
Accounts receivable	112	-	-	112
Inventory	1,767	-	-	1,767
Deposits	360	-	-	360
Total Current Assets	372,983	141,543	-	514,526
Property and equipment, net (Note 6)	-	-	5,212	5,212
Total Assets	\$372,983	\$141,543	\$5,212	\$519,738
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
Current Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	3,135	-	-	3,135
Payroll and sales tax payable	865	-	-	865
Total Current Liabilities	4,000	-	-	4,000
Fund balances:				
Unrestricted:				
Board discretionary	80,090	-	-	80,090
General operating	288,893	-	-	288,893
Properties	-	-	5,212	5,212
Restricted:				
Sanctuary	-	62,812	-	62,812
Endowment	-	52,501	-	52,501
Covell Education	-	13,854	-	13,854
Life Membership	-	4,012	-	4,012
Bayshore	-	8,384	-	8,384
Total Fund Balances	\$368,983	\$141,543	\$5,212	\$515,738
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$372,983	\$141,543	\$5,212	\$519,738

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1996

	Fund Balance May 31, 1995	Excess Changes to Fixed Assets	(Def) of Rev Over Expenses	Fund Balance May 31, 1996
Unrestricted:				
Board discretionary	\$82,837	\$-	\$(2,747)	\$80,090
General operating	286,981	(5,325)	7,237	288,893
Properties	623	5,325	(736)	5,212
Restricted:				
Legal	2,089	-	(2,089)	-
Sanctuary	61,116	-	1,696	62,812
Endowment	54,302	-	(1,801)	52,501
Covell Education	14,309	-	(475)	13,834
Life membership	4,150	-	(138)	4,012
Revolving fundraising	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Bayshore	10,253	-	(1,869)	8,384
Rare bird alert	235	-	(235)	-
Total	\$521,895	\$-	\$(6,157)	\$515,738

Note 1- Description of Organization

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. (the Society) is a membership organization engaged in conservation, public education and research activities focusing on birds, other wildlife and wildlife habitats. The Society is an authorized chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Note 2- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of management's estimates.

Cash equivalents are stated at cost.

Marketable Securities are stated at the lower of aggregate cost or market.

Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Inventory consists primarily of bird feed, bird feeders and education books held for sale.

Property and equipment purchased by the Society are carried at cost.

Depreciation and amortization are computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives ranging from five to ten years.

Note 3 - Fund Accounting

The Society's accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting, a procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose.

Separate accounts are maintained for each fund. The assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Society are reported in the funds as follows:

Unrestricted Funds

General Operating Fund receives all income from general operations and donations not specifically allocated to other funds. Funds are used for the Society's daily operation.

Discretionary Fund is a reserve of the Society's general fund balance. The fund principal may be expended if authorized by a two-thirds

vote of the Board of Directors at two consecutive meetings.

Properties Fund is used to accumulate the Society's net investment in fixed assets.

Restricted Funds

Sanctuary Fund is to be used for land acquisition and for improving wildlife habitats. The fund was created by a \$75,000 gift from the Makower Estate for land acquisitions.

Endowment Fund holds the principal of all money given to the Society which has been restricted by the donor. Such money may be invested or reinvested, unless otherwise restricted. For the year ended May 31, 1996 amounts transferred from the endowment fund to the general operating fund were based on a spending rule of 6% of the fair market value of the endowment fund at May 31, 1995.

Covell Education Fund is restricted to expenditures for schools and public education.

Life Membership Fund consists of dues collected from members in return for a lifetime subscription to the Society's newsletter.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended May 31, 1996

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1996**

REVENUES:	
Public Support:	
Direct Contributions:	
Gifts and donations	\$10,080
Bird-a-Thon	1,149
Total Direct Contributions	11,229
Indirect Contributions:	
Earth Share	9,668
Total Public Support	20,897
Other Revenues:	
Membership dues	23,902
Newsletter subscriptions	1,885
Program service fees	2,960
Merchandise sales	3,459
(net of direct expenses of \$5,732)	
Investment income	19,340
Gain on sale of investments	13,203
Total Other Revenues	64,749
Total Revenues	85,646
EXPENSES:	
Program Services:	
Newsletter	28,863
Conservation	17,602
Other educational programs	22,258
Total Program Services	68,723
Supporting Services:	
Management and general	25,080
Total Expenses	91,803
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$(6,157)

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1996**

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:	
Decrease in fund balances	\$(6,157)
Adjustments to reconcile decrease in fund balances to net cash used by operations:	
Depreciation	736
Gain on sale of marketable securities	(13,203)
(Increase) decrease in operating assets	
Interest receivable	328
Accounts receivable	(112)
Inventory	(231)
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities	
Accounts payable	54
Payroll and sales taxes payable	(62)
Funds held on deposit	(50)
NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(18,717)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:	
Acquisitions of property and equipment	(5,325)
Purchase of marketable securities	(186,335)
Proceeds from sale of marketable securities	191,719
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	59
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(18,658)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	77,931
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	\$59,273

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 1996**

	Program Services		Management		Total Functional	
	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Conservation</u>	<u>Educational</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>& General</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Printing and publications	\$21,007	\$555	\$272	\$21,834	\$1,617	\$25,451
Salaries and wages	-	6,449	6,449	12,898	4,300	17,198
Investment management fees	-	-	-	-	11,559	11,559
Grants and allocations	-	4,509	5,450	9,759	-	9,759
Postage and mailing	7,771	475	540	8,786	316	9,102
Occupancy	-	1,634	1,634	3,268	1,156	4,424
Supplies	-	397	3,275	3,672	264	3,936
Conservation support	-	2,441	-	2,441	-	2,441
Accounting fees	-	-	-	-	1,600	1,600
Payroll taxes	-	592	592	1,184	396	1,580
Telephone	-	474	474	948	317	1,265
Travel	-	-	1,056	1,056	-	1,056
Room rents	-	-	1,027	1,027	-	1,027
Insurance	-	-	832	832	102	934
Conferences and meetings	-	-	702	702	-	702
Miscellaneous expense	85	-	511	596	12	608
Maintenance and repairs	-	-	-	-	347	347
Dues and subscriptions	-	-	78	78	-	78
	28,863	17,326	22,892	69,081	21,986	91,067
Depreciation	-	276	276	552	184	736
Total Functional Expenses	\$28,863	\$17,602	\$23,168	\$69,633	\$22,170	\$91,803

Bayshore Fund represents gifts from or in honor of Elsie Roemer and monies received from a settlement of Harbor Bay Isle ferry litigation. This fund is earmarked for protection of nesting habitats at the Oakland Airport and for specific research projects.

Note 4 - **Cash Equivalents**
Cash not immediately required for current operations is invested in money market funds and certificates of deposit which earn interest at varying rates. Interest earned on these investments was \$1,571 for the year ended May 31, 1996.

Note 5 - **Marketable Securities**
Marketable securities at May 31, 1996, are summarized as follows:

Unrealized	Cost	Market Value	Gain (Loss)
Corporate stocks	\$216,226	\$529,025	\$112,799
Corporate bonds	103,312	105,276	(56)
US Government Securities	129,679	127,449	(2,230)
Total Marketable Securities	\$449,217	\$559,750	\$110,533

Note 6 - **Property and Equipment**
At May 31, 1996, fixed assets consisted of the following:

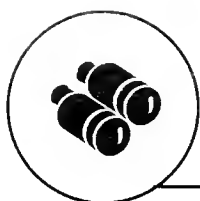
	1996
Office Equipment	\$25,863
Furniture and fixtures	658
Other equipment	380
Total Property & Equipment	\$26,901
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	21,689
Net Property & Equipment	\$5,212

Note 7 - **Leases**
The Society leases its office under a month-to-month operating lease. Total rental expense under this lease amounted to \$4,424.

Note 8 - **Lobbying Expense**
In furtherance of the exempt purpose of protecting wildlife habitats, the Society contributes to the funding of National Audubon Society's (NAS) California Legislative Affairs Director (the California

Audubon Legislative Affairs Program, a joint program of the NAS and California chapters of the NAS), and contributes to the funding of the Planning and Conservation League. In addition, the Society publishes information regarding pending legislation in its monthly newsletter, provides testimony to legislative bodies, and contributes to campaigns in support of or opposition to ballot initiatives related to wildlife and wildlife habitats. The total amount of expenditures for direct lobbying and grass roots communications were \$5,112 for the year ended May 31, 1996.

Note 9 - **Income Tax Status**
The Society is organized under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity. The State of California has also granted the Society a tax-exempt status.



January 23 to February 28

Loons to Hawks

Yellow-billed Loons were again reported on Monterey Bay with 1 and possibly even 2 birds seen on Feb 2, north of Point Pinos (per MPRBA). The Laysan Albatross continued in Point Arena, MEN. In previous years this bird has remained until at least the end of March. The only other Albatross report was that of 2 Black-footed Albatross seen following a fishing boat into Noyo Harbor, MEN, on Feb 17 (LL). At Bodega Bay, SON, the **Emperor Goose** also continues, while yet another was found at Point Arena, MEN, on Feb 7 (PS) and remained at least through Feb 16 (MOB). This brings the total for this species in our area to at least 9 birds this winter. This bird was also in the company of 4 other species of geese including up to 80 "Aleutian" Canada Geese (LL).

Duck numbers began to drop as the month progressed and birds moved out of our area, heading back towards their breeding grounds. There were still some exceptional highlights including a female **King Eider**, found Jan 28 (RL), off the Chimney Rock at Point Reyes NS, MRN, the first report of this species in our area in a number of years. This bird seen by many during its stay remained at least through Feb 23 (MOB). Harlequin Ducks continued to be reported from Point Reyes NS and Mendocino while the continuing male Tufted Duck at Sunnyvale, SCL, was last reported Jan 29, the male on San Francisco Bay was seen through Feb 6 (RST), and 2 additional males were together near the Dunbarton Bridge, SM, on Feb 10 (RST).

Some interesting raptor reports included an unseasonal Broad-winged Hawk along Skyline Trail, near San Bruno, SM, on Feb 9. This bird was observed winding its way towards San Francisco (PJM). An immature Swainson's Hawk was at Mountain View Forebay, SCL, on Feb

8 (MM), while the only report of Rough-legged Hawks this month was near Pescadero Marsh, SM, on Feb 9 (RST), another indicator of the scarcity of this species this winter.

Plovers to Terns

Mountain Plovers were again reported from their traditional wintering area in Yolo County (near the junction of Road 102 and Road 15) with over 100 seen throughout the month (MOB). At Panoche Valley in San Benito up to 26 were present from Feb 1 onwards (EB).

Pacific Golden Plover remained at Lawsons Landing, Dillon's Beach, MRN, throughout the period with up to 5 birds present, while a more unusual report was a single bird at the Merced NWR, MER, on Feb 23 (CK). Rock Sandpipers were again at Glass Beach, Fort Bragg, MEN (DT), while four 4 birds were reported from Humboldt Bay, HUM, on Feb 9 (SH). Another unseasonal bird was a Stilt Sandpiper again at the Merced NWR, MER, on Feb 23 (CK). An extremely unusual species in winter, this bird presumably overwintered in this area.

The longstaying Lesser Black-backed Gull was again reported from the Coyote Creek Waterbird Pond, SCL, on Feb 18 (AJ) and is still no doubt somewhere in the South Bay area. Incredibly, another report of this species was a very sick third winter bird near Pilarcitos Creek, SM, on Jan 31 (TK).

The first and an early report of Caspian Tern was from Humboldt Bay on Feb 8 (SP) while up to 5 Black Skimmers continued at Charleston Slough, SCL, throughout the period (MOB).

Hummingbirds to Sparrows

Another first report for the season was that of a Common Poorwill heard calling at El Granada, SM, on Feb 9 (BS). Hummingbird numbers continued to increase as the month

progressed. An early Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen in Little Panoche Road, FNO, on Feb 22 (JR). Costa's Hummingbirds were reported from their traditional grounds in Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus County, by months end (GF, MP, JR).

Another immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found in Hidden Lakes Park, CC, on Feb 18 (DW) while a somewhat elusive male Williamson's Sapsucker was near Pescadero, SM, on Feb 2 and continued to at least Feb 6 (BM).

Cassin's Kingbirds were well reported this month with birds in San Benito County, at Panoche Valley, Feb 17 (LC) and two at Paicines Reservoir, Feb 23 (KHi) and another in San Joaquin on Feb 22 (through 27) at the Tracy Golf Course (AEd). The Ash-throated Flycatcher at the Guadeloupe River, SCL, was last reported Feb 5 (CS) while the **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** in San Francisco (Pine Lake Park) remains. A male Vermilion Flycatcher found Feb 13 near Hollister, SB, remained through at least Feb 23 (LC, MOB). An early Barn Swallow was at Pescadero, SM, on Feb 9 (RST).

Warbler highlights this month were scarce but included continuing Lucy's Warblers in Monterey and the relocation of the **Yellow-throated Warbler** near Ferndale, HUM.

Details include:
 Black & White Warbler
 Continuing Lake Merritt,
 Oakland, ALA (MOB)
 Lucy's Warbler
 through Jan 30, Pacific Grove, MTY
 (per MPRBA)
 Yellow-throated Warbler
 refound Feb 1, Ferndale, HUM (BB)
 Palm Warbler
 Feb 1 McKinleyville,
 HUM (GJ)
 Feb 2 Arcata, HUM (DG)

Summer Tanagers were found at Coyote Creek, SCL, on Feb 7 (SR) (heard again Feb 25) and in San

The monthly *Observation* column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box and Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert, (MPRBA) or to the author. Some sightings are unconfirmed and numbers of birds are often best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above. This data is made possible by all the observers who contributed their reports to the Northern California Bird Box and Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert, (MPRBA).

If anybody has photos of birds reported in this column and would be interested in letting us post them on our web site we would be very appreciative. Please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Abbreviations for Observers: BB, Bob Bandrith; EB, Ellen Bluestein; LC, Les Chibana; GD, Gary Deighi; AEd, Art Edwards; GF, George Finger; DG, Dean Garrison; SH, Sean Hayes; GH, Gjon Hazard; KHi, Kevin Hints; AJ, Al Jaramillo; CK, Clay Kempf; TK, Ted Koundakjian; RL, Rick Libadour; LL, Leslie Licurance; MM, Mike Mammoser; BM, Bert McKee; PJM, Peter Metropolis; SP, Sean Pierce; MP, Marge Plant; BP, Bill Principe; JR, Jean Richmond; SR, Steve Rottenborn; PS, Paul Sarasini; BS, Barry Sauppe; RSc, Rusty Scalf; CS, Chris Solander; RST, Ron Thorn; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; DW, Denise White; Mob, Many Observers.

Abbreviations for counties: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; FNO, Fresno; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; SB, San Benito; SE, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma.

Other abbreviations used: NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PRNS- Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin.

Francisco at Pine Lake Park on Feb 16 (GH). A **Rusty Blackbird** was reported on Feb 17 near Pacheco Pass, MER (BP), while an overwintering female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was found coming to a feeder in Half Moon Bay, SM, on Jan 30 (GD) and continues to be seen as of this writing. A female Lark Bunting found Feb 8 (RSc) in Panoche Valley, SB, also continues to be seen. A single report of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow came again from the Palo Alto Baylands, SCE, on Feb 8 (MM), while the previously reported Harris's Sparrow in Walnut Creek, CC, was re-found on Feb 4 (KHi).

Spring Cleaning

The GGAS East Bay Conservation Committee is organizing its first Earth Day activity, and we felt that a shore clean-up would be a fitting activity. We invite all of you to participate. We will be cleaning the Albany Beach in back of Golden Gate Racetrack in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Parks District. The beach is covered with litter that makes it less useful as habitat for our avian friends and less pleasant for us.

Please wear old clothes, bring gloves and a lunch, and binoculars to go birding before or after. We will be picking up glass, plastic, and Styrofoam (no beds or mattresses), and we will have a park ranger assisting us and providing the garbage bags, which the Parks District will dispose of.

Join Us For Our First Annual
Earth Day & Audubon's
Birthday Beach Clean-Up

Where: Albany Shorefront

When: Earth Day, Saturday,
April 19

10:00 A.M. To 1:00 P.M.

GGAS will provide cold drinks and snacks.

To get there, please take the Gilman Street exit off I-80, drive west (towards the bay) behind the racetrack, and park in the large lot in front of Albany Beach. Please come and help us make this event a success! For more information, call (510) 549-0411 or (510) 843-2222.

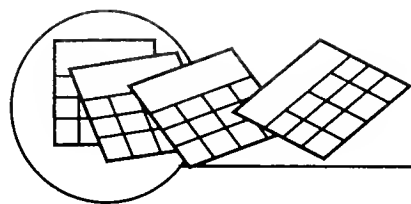
Love and War

Continued from page 1

than me. Stop it! 3) That's my girlfriend, not yours!!!!.....All very important things to make clear. But all of this uncivil behavior is a sign of something greater.....spring, and with it breeding season. Soon enough, arboreal real estate will become more and more valuable around the Audubon Canyon Ranch, and raising a family will take precedence over vanity and bickering. For now, however, it's back to acting like they're part of a fasion

show in a singles bar; never quite getting the balance between good manners and good looks right.

Theirs is one of the more obvious calls to all birders that the most exciting season has arrived. For birds, spring is life and passion, it's why they stuck it through the winter, or flew thousands of miles. Is it any wonder that the Snowy is a little passionate and competitive? Dressed like that you have to be!



April Meeting

Growing Wild II

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Creatures to Your Yard

Are you tired of seeing only House Finches and House Sparrows at your feeder? Learn to create a mini-ecosystem, attractive to birds and other wildlife, at our April meeting. Barbara Deutsch, Alan Hopkins and Dr. Don Mahoney will give a repeat performance of their popular slide-show and talk that will be of interest not only to lovers of birds and butterflies, but to all gardeners.

Our speakers will talk about ways to increase the habitat value of your yard through plantings. Plants that provide food and cover for birds also attract beneficial insects that prey on pests and provide a food source for birds ...your very own food web. A plant list and source list on how you can find these plants locally will also be available at the program.

Barbara Deutsch is a "butterfly gardener" whose Potrero Hill yard is home to butterflies like Anise

Thursday, April 17

7:30 p.m.

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

and Pipevine Swallowtails, Acmon Blue, Gulf Fritillary, and Monarch Butterflies.

In 25 years of urban bird-watching, Alan Hopkins has learned to appreciate how extremely important man-made habitats are to resident and migrating birds.

Dr. Don Mahoney is a gardener at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park. He heads a park project to restore habitat using native plants from the San Francisco Bay Area and supervises many volunteers in this effort.

Join us and learn how you can make a difference by turning your gardens into corridors for birds and other wildlife.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

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